

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02285 271825Z
ACTION SS-25

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O P 271654Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 713
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2285

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SW, UR
SUBJECT: HIJACKED SOVIET PLANE

REF: STOCKHOLM 2273

1. DURING CALL BY CHARGE ON MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL-DESIGNATE LEIF LEIFLAND MAY 27, LEIFLAND BRIEFLY TOUCHED ON STATUS OF HIJACKER FROM USSR, SAYING THAT GENERAL SITUATION WAS CLEAR ALTHOUGH THERE WERE ONE OR TWO LEGAL POINTS STILL UNDER STUDY. IN ORDER TO HELP MAKE MATTER CLEAR TO USG, HE SAID HE WOULD FURNISH US ON A CONFIDENTIAL AND RESTRICTED BASIS THE CABLE MFA HAD SENT TO AMBASSADOR WACHTMEISTER IN WASHINGTON OUTLINING SITUATION, EVEN THOUGH WACHTMEISTER MIGHT HAVE ALREADY FURNISHED SOME INFORMATION TO USG. LEIFLAND ASKED THAT WE RESTRICT KNOWLEDGE OF FACT THAT HE HAD GIVEN US TEXT OF CABLE. INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS. (DANELIUS IS MFA LEGAL ADVISOR.)

2. BEGIN TEXT. SOVIET AMBASSADOR JAKOVLEV VISITED ME AT 1730 HOURS YESTERDAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE HIJACKING. (IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HE ASKED TO MEET ME PRIOR TO THE PLANE'S LANDING AT ARLANDA, I.E., THAT THE RUSSIANS ACTED VERY QUICKLY.) DANELIUS PARTICIPATED IN THE DISCUSSION.
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I. THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT BOTH SWEDEN AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE SIGNATORIES OF THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON HIJACKING AND OF THE MONTREAL CONVENTION ON AIR SABOTAGE. THEREBY BOTH NATIONS HAD MARKED THEIR DESIRE TO FIGHT AGAINST HIJACKING AND SIMILAR CRIMES. THE AMBASSADOR THEN REQUESTED, ACCORDING TO HIS INSTRUCTIONS,

- 1) THAT THE SWEDISH AUTHORITIES SHOULD GUARANTEE THE

SAFETY OF THE SOVIET CITIZENS WHO HAD COME TO SWEDEN WITH THE HIJACKED PLANE;

2) THAT THESE SOVIET CITIZENS SHOULD GET PERMISSION TO RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION WITH A SOVIET PLANE, AND

3) THAT "THE CRIMINAL" OR "THE CRIMINALS" SHOULD BE HANDED TO THE SOVIET UNION.

DANELIUS AND I REPLIED,

1) THAT THE SWEDISH AUTHORITIES WOULD, OF COURSE, PROTECT THE SOVIET CITIZENS WHO HAD TRAVELLED WITH THE PLANE;

2) THAT THOSE SOVIET CITIZENS WHO DESIRED TO DO THIS WOULD, OF COURSE, BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION AND THAT THEY WOULD BE FREE TO FLY BY SOVIET PLANE;

3) THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, IF IT SO DESIRED, COULD SUBMIT A FORMAL REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION WHICH IN THAT CASE WILL BE SCRUTINIZED ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS IN THE SWEDISH EXTRADITION LAW. IN THIS CONNECTION WE POINTED UP THAT THE HAGUE CONVENTION DOES NOT REQUIRE THAT A NATION HAND OVER A HIJACKER, RATHER THAT IT GIVES THE GOVERNMENT THE CHOICE BETWEEN EXPULSION AND PROSECUTION IN THE COUNTRY.

JAKOVLEV ALSO BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION WHETHER A SOVIET CONSUL WOULD BE ALLOWED TO MEET THE SOVIET CITIZENS AT ARLANDA. WE STATED THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO FORWARD THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST REGARDING THIS TO THE PERSONS CONCERNED WHO THEN THEMSELVES COULD INDICATE WHETHER THEY WANTED TO TALK WITH THE CONSUL OR NOT.

TO SUM UP, IT CAN BE STATED THAT THE SOVIET REPRESENTATION WAS PRESENTED CALMLY AND THAT NO CRITICISM OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SWEDISH AUTHORITIES WAS VOICED.

II. TOWARD THE END OF THE DISCUSSION I SAID THAT I UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MASS MEDIA WERE ALREADY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT A HIJACKED PLANE HAD LANDED AT ARLANDA. IT WAS MORE THAN LIKELY THAT THE MINISTRY WOULD GET QUESTIONS WHETHER THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US IN ORDER, FOR EXAMPLE, TO REQUEST EXTRADITION. I WAS EAGER, I SAID, TO DISCUSS WITH THE AMBASSADOR HOW SUCH QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ANSWERED.

JAKOVLEV REPLIED IMMEDIATELY: "TELL THEM HOW IT IS. TELL THEM THAT I CALLED ON YOU AND THAT I MADE THREE REQUESTS, AND TELL THEM HOW YOU REPLIED TO THEM. WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE."

JAKOVLEV'S VISIT WITH ME LASTED ABOUT HALF AN HOUR. THE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE HIJACKING TOOK ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES. THEREAFTER J. ASKED WHETHER HE, SINCE HE WAS WITH ME ANYHOW, COULD EXPLAIN CERTAIN "PERSONAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES" AT THE SOVIET TOP AND THE DRAFT OF A NEW SOVIET CONSTITUTION. HIS EXPLANATION OF THIS TOOK AT LEAST TEN

MINUTES WHEREUPON HE ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY "OFFICIAL SWEDISH REACTION" TO THE DRAFT OF A NEW CONSTITUTION. I REPLIED THAT I HADN'T READ THE DRAFT, WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, HADN'T EVEN BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE SOVIET UNION, BUT THAT WE, ONCE THE TEXT IS AVAILABLE, WOULD OF COURSE STUDY IT WITH INTEREST.

III. LATER IN THE EVENING THE SOVIET EMBASSY REQUESTED BY TELEPHONE TO GET THE NAME OF THE HIJACKER. IN REPLY TO HIRDMAN'S QUESTION, WHO TALKED DIRDCTLY WITH THE HIJACKER, THE LATTER STATED THAT HE DID NOT WANT THAT HIS NAME BE GIVEN TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY.

END

TEXT.

PERRY

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